

REMARKS

Claims 16-19 are pending. Claims 1, 13-15, and 20-23 are canceled herein without prejudice. Claims 2-12 were previously canceled.

In the Office Action, the Examiner made an election/restriction requirement. Further, claims 1, 13-15, and 24-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement, and under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly indefinite. Claims 1 and 13-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by United States Patent No. 6,439,072. Claims 24-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by United States Patent No. 6,270,419. Claims 16-19 were allowed.

The Examiner has required restriction between:

- Group I, claims 1, 13-19 and 24-26, drawn to a cage, classified in class 464, subclass 145.
- Group II, claims 20-23, drawn to a process for producing a cage, classified in class 148, subclass 559.

Applicants provisionally elect claim Group I, with traverse. Claims 20-23 are canceled without prejudice, as noted above. Applicants reserve the right to pursue all canceled claims in a future application, or in this application if the Examiner withdraws the restriction requirement, which Applicants believe to have been improper.

All rejections are moot, inasmuch as the only claims now pending have been allowed. Therefore, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, the presently pending claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested and the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. It is believed that any fees associated with the filing of this paper are identified in an accompanying transmittal. However, if any additional fees are required, they may be charged to Deposit Account 18-0013, under order number Order No. 66969-0002. To the extent necessary, a petition for extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a) is hereby made, the fee for which should be charged against the aforementioned account.

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Respectfully submitted,

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